



Competition Regulations QNB Stars League 2021/2022

Definitions

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

1. **“QFA”** means the Qatar Football Association.
2. **“FIFA”** means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
3. **“IFAB”** means the International Football Association Board.
4. **“AFC”** means the Asian Football Confederation.
5. **“QADC”** means the Qatar Anti-Doping Commission established by the Qatar Olympic Committee to carry out the anti-doping functions as the independent Anti-Doping Organisation for Qatar.
6. **“ASPETAR”** means the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital officially accredited as a FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence.
7. **“Executive Committee”** means QFA Executive Committee.
8. **“WADA”** Means the World Anti- Doping Agency.
9. **“Competition Committee”** is one of QFA’s committees responsible for ensuring a smooth organization of all competitions.
10. **“Ethics Committee”** means the first instance judicial bodies for Ethics matters.
11. **“Disciplinary Committee”** means the first instance judicial body.
12. **“Appeals Committee”** means the appeal instance judicial body of the QFA responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final.
13. **“Court of Arbitration for Sport”** means the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
14. **“QSAT”**: Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal.
15. **“Financial Control Committee”** It is the authority concerned with the necessary controls to ensure the good financial performance of sports clubs and focus on protecting the creditor.
16. **“Referees Department”** is one of QFA’s standing departments formed to look into all matters regarding referees, in accordance with QFA’s development strategy.

17. **“QNB STARS LEAGUE”** means the official QNB Stars League Competition in the State of Qatar, defined herein as “Competition”.
18. **“QSLM”** means the Qatar Stars League Management established by the QFA pursuant to law no. 21 for 2006.
19. **“Competition Management”** means the committee formed by QSLM to oversee the competition.
20. **“Competition Steering Committee”** is directly responsible for monitoring all organizational and management matters related to the competition affairs.
21. **“Regulations”** means the statutes, regulations, codes, circulars and other directives issued by the QFA or QSLM as well as the Laws of the Game.
22. **“Circulars”** means the circulars that are issued by QFA and that include alterations applied to the Regulations, following the issuance of these Regulations, during the sport season, as deemed necessary.
23. **“QSLM Circulars”** means the circulars issued by the QSLM including all the amendments related to the competition.
24. **“Annual Circular”** means the circular issued by the QFA at the commencement of the sports season and related to the number of players and the registration format.
25. **“Standards for Using Commercial Marks”** means the standards regarding ways of using the Competition commercial marks and the sponsors’ logos in protection of the marketing and promotional rights of all.
26. **“Disciplinary Code”** means the QFA Disciplinary Code which includes the infringements to the statutes, regulations, codes, circulars and other directives issued by the various committees and offices of QFA. The Disciplinary Code also includes the appropriate disciplinary measures that are applicable to such infringements and the mechanism for operation of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committees.
27. **“Code of Ethics”** means the QFA rules and regulations regarding the code of conduct.
28. **“FIFA RSTP”** means the relevant FIFA regulations on the status and transfer of players.
29. **“QFA RSTP”** means the relevant QFA regulations on the status and transfer of players.

30. **“Club”** means a football club member of the QFA.
31. **“First Division Clubs”** means the clubs that have the right to participate in the first division competitions.
32. **“Second Division Clubs”** means the clubs that have the right to participate in the second division competitions.
33. **“Sports Season”** means the period starting with the first official match in July and ending with the last official match in May.
34. **“U23 Qatargas League”** is an official competition which includes the first Division teams less than 23 years of old.
35. **“Official Match”** means a match organised under the auspices of the QFA or QSLM for all of the teams or Clubs under their jurisdiction; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
36. **“Actual playing time”** means the player’s participation at any time of the game (fielded-substitute).
37. **“Friendly Match”** means a match organised under the auspices of the QFA or any other entity in Qatar for all of the teams or Clubs under their jurisdiction; the score has no effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
38. **“Pre-Match”** means the timeframe between the arrival of both teams to the venue and the kick-off referee whistle.
39. **“Post-Match”** means the timeframe between the referee’s final whistle and the departure of both teams from the match venue.
40. **“New Club”** means the club that the player is joining.
41. **“Former club”** means the club that the player is leaving before joining the new club.
42. **“Intermediary Entity”** is an agency, company or any entity performing the intermediary activities.
43. **“Both Transfer Windows”** means both time periods during determined by the QFA one year ahead of the next season as per the FIFA Regulations. The first of which is for 12 weeks before the commencement of the sports season, while the second is for one month in the middle of the sports season.

44. **“Transfer Matching System (TMS)”** means a web-based data information system of FIFA with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.
45. **“Organizational Procedures”** means the measures that clubs take in order to furnish all provisions required for organizing Competition matches.
46. **“Technical Meeting”** means the meeting held before any football match and attended by the organizers and the managers of the participating clubs.
47. **“Press Conferences”** are held before and after Competition matches and are attended by club associates, including officials, coaches and players.
48. **“Officials”** means anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with football at the QFA, QSLM or a Club, regardless of his title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or otherwise) and the duration of the activity. Managers, coaches and support officials in particular are all officials.
49. **“Official Accreditation”** means the accreditation cards that are issued to all officials at and during the Competition and that allow them access to the places designated on the accreditation cards.
50. **“Match Officials”** means the match commissioner, the referee assessor, the referee, assistant referees, fourth official and any other individual appointed by the QFA assuming responsibility related to the match.
51. **“Administrative Staff”** means individuals who are responsible for their Club’s administrative matters with respect to any Competition match.
52. **“Technical Staff”** means individuals who are responsible for their Club’s technical matters with respect to any Competition match.
53. **“Medical Staff”** consists of Club medical officials, provided they are authorized by ASPETAR.
54. **“Security Coordinator”** means the security official who is responsible for all safety and security matters at and during the football match he is appointed to oversee.
55. **“Doping Test Coordinator”** means the official who is responsible for matters concerning the selection of players and taking blood samples at any chosen Competition match.
56. **“Maintaining Order Staff”** means the members that provide logistical support to the match coordinator in order to maintain the security and safety for everyone inside the venue.

57. **“Official TV Broadcasting Representatives”** means individuals who represent the official TV broadcaster of Competition matches.
58. **“Sponsors and Associates”** means the sponsors, associates and partners that QFA and QSLM enter into a contract with to sponsor a Competition.
59. **“Appellations”** means all the names and designations used to designate the relationship between sponsors and the Competition, including official sponsors, partners, official bank, official broadcaster and any other appellations agreed on in marketing the sponsorship and advertising rights in sport Competitions.
60. **“Commercial Rights”** means any and all commercial rights that are associated with the Competition and that can be invested commercially, including publicity, advertising, tickets, TV broadcasting, the Internet, and franchising and promotional rights.
61. **“Sponsorship and Media Rights”** means any and all the rights regarding the Competition, in any form and under any label; the rights of advertising in stadiums hosting Competition matches, the official Competition program, and the different print and audio media associated with the name of Competition, any commercial marks; and permission to use the Competition logo on teams, promotional gifts and products for sale.
62. **“Television Broadcasting Rights”** means any and all the rights regarding live and recorded TV broadcasting, transmission and reproduction of Competition matches and accompanying events, excluding ground stations and satellite TV coded and decoded, cable TV, the Internet, and all other forms of modern TV broadcasting and transmission in all languages.
63. **“International Broadcasting Insignia”** means the insignia used in radio/TV broadcasting of Competitions and associated events.
64. **“Competition Logos and Emblems”** means all the logos, symbols, marks and emblems associated with the Competition and approved by QFA or QSLM.
65. **“Force Majeure”** means unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond anyone’s reasonable control which result in the stoppage, ban or suspension of a Competition activity.
66. **“The Non-Force Majeure”** means any unexpected and unusual event that is caused by an act that results in the suspension, interruption or delay of any of the activities of the competition.
67. **“Prohibited Items”** means any articles that must not be brought within the Stadium. Any person in possession of such items will be refused entry to the Stadium.

68. **“Official Facilities”** include all the centres that provide services at and during Competition matches.
69. **“ACL”** means the AFC Champions League.
70. **“Natural Person”** means the person who represents himself.
71. **“Legal Person”** means the person who represents the entity which he affiliates.
72. **“Simple Majority”** means a proportion of 50% plus one at least.
73. **“Football Development Department”** is entrusted with the task of organizing all Age Category Competitions.
74. **“Players and Competitions Affairs Department”** is entrusted with the tasks of organizing football Competitions that are not within the authority of QSLM and players’ registration.
75. **“National Teams Department”** is entrusted with the tasks of organizing and handling all matters related to the different national teams.

General Provisions

- The QSLM is the official owner of the Competition.
- The QSLM organizes and coordinates the Competition.
- The QFA, as original owner of all rights of the Competition, has allocated the right to commercially exploit all connected commercial rights, including, but without limitation, all marketing, sponsorship, advertising, licensing and franchising rights as well as all current and/or future worldwide visual, audio-visual and sound broadcasting rights of still and/or moving images transmitted via radio, television, or current and/or future electronic media (including internet and wireless technology) and any current and future secondary rights deriving there from.
- These regulations clarify rights and obligations of the clubs participating in the competition.
- The Regulations are binding for all members participating in organizing and hosting Competition matches to comply with the statutes, regulations, codes, circulars and other directives issued by the FIFA, IFAB and CAS.
- Any infringement of these regulations shall be subject to the proceedings of the competent judicial bodies.
- Only the Executive Committee has the right to interpret these Regulations.
- These Regulations supersede all similar preceding regulations issued in 2019/2020.
- These Regulations come into force immediately upon the approval and sanction of the Executive Committee prior to the start of the 2020/2021 season.
- These Regulations are published in Arabic and English. In case there is any divergence in the wording of the two texts, the Arabic text is authoritative.

Section One

The Competition Management

Article 1:

The responsibilities of QSLM shall comprise:

- a) Organizing and managing the Competition.
- b) Preparing a schedule of all Competition matches.
- c) Changing any Competition match dates or venues, or any other organizational matter, as deemed necessary for public interest.
- d) Submitting Competition match results to the Disciplinary Committee for approval.
- e) Referring any infringement regarding organizational procedures to the Disciplinary Committee.
- f) Coordinating with clubs to ensure compliance with the AFC terms and conditions regarding professional football in order to increase or maintain the number of seats for Qataris in QNB STARS LEAGUE and to abide by the terms and conditions of any other external Competition.
- g) Selecting members of the committee in charge of managing the Competition and identifying its tasks and responsibilities based on its specific Regulations

Section Two

Participating Clubs

Terms

Article 2:

The clubs eligible to participate in the Competition shall satisfy the following requirements:

- a) Clubs are required to possess a license to participate in the Competition as per the relevant QSLM Club Licensing Regulations as well as the agreements convened between the QFA, the QSLM and/or the relevant clubs. In the event that a club's license is rejected, the QFA Executive Committee may, at the request of the relevant club and based on exceptionally acceptable reasons, allow the club to participate in the competition. The decision of the QFA Executive Committee in this case is final and not subject to appeal.
- b) All clubs must undertake to abide by these Regulations.
- c) All clubs must undertake to provide a detailed and comprehensive financial account from the approved accounts audit, showing the gains, losses, and the budget pertaining to the club's company.
- d) All participating clubs shall agree to comply with the Competition agreements and obligations signed and entered into by the various committees of QFA/QSLM and any other concerned party.

- e) All clubs must sign the agreement of participation prepared by the QFA and/or QSLM.

Obligations

Article 3:

Upon satisfaction of the terms of participation, clubs shall comply with the following rules and regulations:

- a) Compliance with the Competition agreements and obligations signed and entered into by the QFA different committees and departments with any other concerned party.
- b) Compliance with all the statutes, regulations, codes, circulars and other directives issued by the QFA different committees and departments.
- c) Compliance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- d) Compliance with the decisions of QFA regarding administrative or disciplinary matters.
- e) Recognition of the QSAT, if established, and the CAS..
- f) Adoption of a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the QFA or QSLM, FIFA and AFC shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the QSAT, if established, or judicial body of FIFA, AFC and QFA and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
- g) Commitment to include the strongest team during the season and take the game seriously, regardless of the score results and position in the ranking table.
- h) Adherence to the principle of Fair Play agreed on nationally, internationally and inter-continentially.
- i) Consent to all liabilities that may result from the behaviour and conduct of any Club associates, including players, coaches, administrators, spectators and any other natural or legal person, take all reasonable steps that its members and associated persons, in accordance with the relevant Regulations.
- j) Commitment of the home club to abide by the rights of other clubs when organizing football matches on its ground vis-à-vis players, technical and administrative staff and spectators.
- k) Compliance of the home and visiting clubs with the consideration of the determined fans seats attribution (70% for the home club – 30% for the visiting club).
- l) Compliance de facto with all the requirements and obligations set out in the agreement signed previously with the competition management.
- m) Commitment to attend all meetings, activities, conferences and events organized by QFA different committees and departments.

- n) Commitment to deal with the media before, during and after football matches, in accordance with the contents of the agreement signed and entered into by the club and QSLM.
- o) Notwithstanding possession of an entry ticket issued by QSLM, the home club shall commit to refuse any person entry to the football stadium and all locations owned, occupied or utilised by the Club.
- p) Commitment of club officials to suspend the official accreditations related to any sports event organized by the QFA or QSLM. In the event of losing the relevant accreditations, the club officials should report this. Sanctions may be imposed upon the club officials for the lack of compliance with this provision.
- q) Commitment to secure a match presentation (announcer) sound system in the stadium.
- r) Commitment to let the main stadium screen at the disposal of the Competition Committee for possible use to display commercials or live match broadcast without replaying any shots from the match.
- s) Commitment not to display the results of other matches on the screen or through a match presentation (announcer).
- t) The Club accreditation cards are issued to the clubs in accordance with the special organizational structure of the club company as well as the officials of the technical and administrative bodies in accordance with these regulations.

Rights

Article 4:

Upon compliance with the terms and requirements of participation, the club shall be entitled to the rights listed below:

- a) The Club shall be notified of any changes, modifications, additions or omissions to the Laws of the Game following official submission of such changes, modifications, additions or omissions to FIFA.
- b) Grant the Club one speaker, however, the Match Commissioner have the right to monitor the game pulling the loudspeaker in the case of non-compliance of the spectators. In all cases, the QFA and the QSLM have the right to increase the number of speakers in the cases they see fit.
- c) Grant the club a chance to defend any of its affiliates before or after the issuance of any disciplinary sanctions upon in accordance with legal procedures and deadlines taking into account the procedure in various judicial committees up to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- d) Taking into consideration there is no clash in the Club's participations in football matches when representing Qatar football in regional continental, and international competitions, in accordance with QFA deems appropriate.
- e) The Club shall be granted its financial rights as a participant in the Competition in a timely manner so that it can settle its financial obligations, in accordance with the plans previously agreed upon.

- f) The Club shall receive official notification ahead of the times of all meetings, activities, conferences and events organized by the various committees and of QFA.
- g) The Club shall use the match presentation (announcer) up to 30 minutes prior to the start of the football match.
- h) If entitled to, QNB STARS LEAGUE champion shall participate in the AFC Champions League, in accordance with AFC regulations.
- i) In case one club wins the QNB STARS LEAGUE and the Emir Cup, the club that occupies the second place in QNB STARS LEAGUE shall be entitled to participate in the AFC Champions League, in accordance with AFC regulations. Club nomination shall be based upon QNB STARS LEAGUE classification.
- j) No Club shall be allowed to participate in more than one external competition.

Section Three

Competition Format

Article 5:

In accordance with the League Regulations, Competition home and away matches shall be played wherein each team plays two matches against the other teams, one as a home club and the other as guest with a total of 22 matches in total.

Article 6:

In accordance with the League system, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.

Article 7:

The clubs participating in the Competition shall be ranked on the basis of the points accumulated by each participating team from all League matches played as follows:

- a) The team with the greater number of points in League matches shall win QNB STARS LEAGUE.
- b) The team ranked 12th in the QNB STARS LEAGUE shall relegate to the second division.
- c) The team ranked 11th in the QNB STARS LEAGUE shall participate in a play-off match versus the runner-up of the second division league in order to determine the team participating in the QNB STARS LEAGUE.
- d) In the event a final tie between two teams from the play-off match, the game shall continue on extra time of thirty (30) minutes with two periods of fifteen (15) minutes each. If the winner is still not decided, then the penalty kick procedures will apply.
- e) In the event that two teams or more accumulate an equal number of points competing for the first place, the following criteria shall be used successively to break the tie:

1. The goal difference based on goals scored in the concerned teams matches (direct encounters).
 2. The goal difference based on all matches played.
 3. The overall number of goals scored in matches played.
 4. Total number of wins in all Competition games.
 5. The number of yellow and red cards received (1 point for a single yellow card, 3 points for a direct or indirect red card. In the case of a direct red card as a result of a yellow card, 4 points for a yellow card followed by a direct red card)
 6. The toss of a coin.
- f) In the event that two teams or more accumulate an equal number of points in all other cases, the following criteria shall be used successively to break the tie:
1. The goal difference based on all matches played.
 2. The overall number of goals scored in matches played.
 3. The goal difference based on goals scored in the concerned teams matches (direct encounters).
 4. Total number of wins in all Competition games.
 5. The number of yellow and red cards received (1 point for a single yellow card, 3 points for a direct or indirect red card. In the case of a direct red card as a result of a yellow card, 4 points for a yellow card followed by a direct red card)
 6. The toss of a coin.

Section Four

Match Organizing Procedures

Article 8:

The Competition Management will use the following countdown schedule for all competition games:

Time before kick-off	Procedures
120 minutes	Arrival of the General Coordinator Completion of security check and inspections/ Opening of stadium gates
90 minutes	Arrival of the Match Commissioner in the field
90 minutes	Arrival of referees Arrival of the two teams Submission of the start list by the two teams Visit of the Match Commissioner and the fourth referee to the dressing rooms
70 minutes	Submission of final team sheet, signed by the coach and

	team manager, to the Match Commissioner
65 minutes	Distribution of the start list
60 minutes	Watering pitch if necessary
50 minutes	Player warm up
20 minutes	Completion of player warm up and return to dressing rooms The pitch may be watered if necessary
18 minutes	Announcing the start list Ensuring flags and ball boys are available
07 minutes	Arrival of the substitutes and officials to the reserve bench
06 minutes	Inspection of players' kits by referees
04 minutes	Entrance of the Ball boys carrying the Fair Play Flag followed by the general coordinator, referees and players
03 minutes	Commencement of the opening ceremony, including players lining up in front of the VIP Tribune, players shaking hands with counterparts from the competing team, shaking hands with the referees
Zero minute	Match kicks-off
+50 minutes	The grass may be watered if necessary
The half-time interval shall last for fifteen (15) minutes only following the whistle announcing the end of the first half.	

Article 9:

The Match Commissioner shall be responsible for the preparation of the Match List after receiving the Team Sheets of the two competing teams from the concerned official.

Article 10:

Following a site visit to the home and away teams' dressing rooms, the fourth referee shall ensure the names are correct.

Article 11:

The Match List shall include the names of the 11 starting players, the goalkeeper, the team captain, the substitutes, the coach and the team administrator who are allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench for each of the two competing teams.

Article 12

The list of names of players taking part in a Competition game may be altered after submission of names and prior to the game. In such a case, the following conditions must be observed:

- a) In the event one of the eleven (11) players registered in a Match List is unable to participate for any reason, the player may be replaced by one of the seven (7) substitutes. Adding the name of a new player to the list of substitute players

- shall not be permitted to the list, except if the player incapable of playing is the goalkeeper.
- b) In the event a substitute player is unable to participate for any reason, he may not be replaced by a player registered in his Team's Sheet approved by QFA, except if the goalkeeper is the player who is incapable of playing.
 - c) It is possible to delete and change any player from the starting list of the match after it has been confirmed by the team official before the time specified in the countdown for its delivery or confirmation in the electronic system (Comet), and this is by virtue of a written letter that includes the timing of the change request. The eliminated player cannot be re-registered in the match list.
 - d) In the event the player whose unable to participate is the main or substitute goalkeeper, he may be replaced by another goalkeeper registered in his Team's Sheet approved by QFA.
 - e) No addition may be included after submission of the final list as per the timing stated in the official match countdown with the exception of the goalkeeper.

Article 13:

Fifteen (15) minutes after the match, a report shall be submitted comprising any misconduct or other incident that occurred at and during the match.

Article 14:

Given that any player registered in his club's team sheet is entitled to participate in QNB STARS LEAGUE and U23 Qatargas League Competition during the same season, the following conditions must be observed:

- a) Any player playing one half of the match or less with his team in a QNB STARS LEAGUE Competition shall be allowed to participate in his team's next match in U23 Qatargas League.
- b) Any player playing more than one half of the match with his team in a QNB STARS LEAGUE Competition shall not be allowed to participate in his team's next match in U23 Qatargas League, except if the period between the two games **is two** days, including the day of the first match.

Example: If the player participated in a match on Saturday, then the next match he is eligible to participate in will be on Monday.

Article 15:

To enable clubs to benefit from Age Category players (under 18), the latter may be allowed to participate in Competitions, provided the following conditions are observed:

1. Utilizing Age Category players (under 18) in all First Division Competitions, subject to the provision regarding the number of Resident Players in each match.
2. The participation of any age category player (under 18) in all First Division, U23 and same Age Category Competitions shall not exceed six (6) actual during the same calendar year.

3. In case an Age Category player (under 18) has actually participated in a First Division match, a period of two days, including the day of the first match, must elapse before the player can participate in any other match in any other category.
Example: If the player participated in a match on Saturday, then the next match he is eligible to participate in will be on Monday.
4. The participation of any Age Category player (under 18) in one half-match or less in any match played by his team shall not be considered an actual participation.
5. The participation of any Age Category player (under 18) in more than one half-match in any match played by his team shall be considered an actual participation.
6. If a player of the age category (under 16) is required to participate in the first team competition an application should be in place to promote the player to under 18 age category.

Section Five

Technical Terms

Technical Rules of the Competition

Article 16:

- a) All Competition matches shall be played in accord with the Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA.
- b) In case there is any divergence in the conceptualization or interpretation of any article of the Law of the Game, the English text is authoritative.
- c) Each team shall consist of eleven (11) players, including the goalkeeper.
- d) A match may start if either team consists of seven players, including the goalkeeper.
- e) Up to a maximum of five substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition, provided to perform the five substitutions during three stoppages during the match, noting that halftime is not included among the three stoppages.
- f) Each club is permitted to use an additional substitution (sixth substitution) when the match reaches extra time (regardless of the fact that the team has used the maximum number of substitutions allowed). In the event the team didn't use the maximum number of substitutions allowed, the team may use them during the extra time.
- g) The implementation of the cooling break system by stopping the match for one minute during each half, in the 30th and 75th minutes, in coordination between the referee and the match commissioner.
- h) The number of substitute players who are registered and seated in the reserve bench must not exceed twelve (12) players.

- i) A player may not participate in any official competition organized under the auspices of QFA unless a personal registration card issued by QFA is submitted to the referee.

Article 17:

- a) The match officially lasts 90 minutes, split into two 45-minute halves with a half-time break of 15 minutes.
- b) The two competing teams shall enter the field together after the half-time break.
- c) An extra 30 minutes shall, if applicable, be split into two fifteen (15) minute halves, with a five (5) minute interval between the normal paying time and the extra time. No break shall be given between the two halves of extra time.

Article 18:

The field pitch must meet international standards, in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Law of the Game.

Article 19:

The field pitch must be prepared in accordance with the requirements that guarantee player safety.

Article 20:

Prior to the start of the game, the Match Commissioner or his deputy shall ensure the field pitch meets all the requirements specified in the Law of the Game. In the event the field pitch does not meet these requirements, the Match Commissioner may ask the management of the home club to conduct the necessary alterations. If the home club is not able to make the alterations within the time specified before the game starts, a report may be submitted to the disciplinary committee.

Article 21:

Watering and cutting the football turf pitch must be approved by the head_referee and the Match Commissioner, in accordance with the FIFA Regulations, with the provision that the cutting of the football turf must satisfy the requirement that the_length of the turf is 20 to 22 millimeters.

Article 22:

The allocation of a bench for each of the two administrative and technical staff as well as the substitutes with the left bench for the home team while the right for the visitors, in the case of organizing the match on neutral venue, the left bench to be allocated to the team mentioned first in the game list.

Article 23:

A technical area shall be situated in front of each reserve bench and the two technical areas will be at the same distance from the midpoint of the pitch.

Article 24:

The reserve bench shall consist of at least sixteen (16) comfortable seats allocated to the administrative and technical staff and substitute players.

Article 25:

The two teams shall enter the pitch from behind the Fair Play Flag with the home team to the left of the flag and the guest team to the right.

Article 26:

The colors of the uniforms worn by administrative and technical staff and substitute players must be clearly distinguishable from the colors of official players and referees.

Article 27:

The two competing teams shall be allowed to warm up in the pitch prior to the start of the match if the weather conditions permit and at the discretion of the Match Commissioner. A team may not warm up if the technical officials see otherwise.

Article 28:

Warm-up areas shall be designated for each team's substitute players at and during the match. The warm up area will be situated near the team's reserve bench. Except for the goalkeeper, the players will not be allowed to use a ball.

Article 29:

The fourth referee is entitled to ask the players to return to the substitute bench if actual warm up does not take place.

Article 30:

No more than two technical officials shall oversee the warm up.

Article 31:

Specific balls shall be approved for use in all Competition matches in coordination with the approved company.

Article 32:

The ball or balls to be used in all official matches shall comply with the requirements outlined the Laws of the Game.

Article 33:

At and during all official matches, ten (10) balls shall be available for use in each approved stadium prior to the start of the game.

Article 34:

A sufficient number of balls approved by QFA shall be made available for use in trainings to each club participating in the Competition prior to the start of the season.

Article 35:

Balls that are not approved by QFA may not be used in warm up or official Competition matches.

Article 36:

To get the required approval, the clubs participating in the Competition shall identify their official stadiums at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition, provided the stadium complies with the terms and conditions specified by the Competition management. In the event a stadium is not identified, the Competition management reserves the right to determine the stadium it deems appropriate.

Article 37:

The Competition management shall receive the stadium at 8:00 a.m. the day the match is scheduled for in order to start necessary arrangements.

Section Six

Players' Equipment

Colors

Article 38:

Each club shall choose the main color of its team's uniform and a reserve color, in addition to a third color.

Article 39:

The club must wear the uniform approved at the technical meeting throughout the match, provided all the kit items carry the same trademark.

Article 40:

Each club shall bring two colors to the stadium, a first-choice color and a reserve color, prior to the Competition game.

Article 41:

The national flag of Qatar shall not be stitched or printed on the shirts used by any team participating in the Competition.

Article 42:

Players may not wear uniforms composed of more than three (3) different colors. This rule does not apply to numbers and letters.

Article 43:

In case three (3) color uniforms are used, one of these colors must be the main color and other two secondary colors.

Article 44:

A fourth color may be used to adorn letters and numbers printed on the uniforms provided it does not take much space.

Article 45:

The main color must be clearly predominant on the front and back of the shirt.

Article 46:

1. Players' names must be printed on the backside of the shirt in a color that is different from that approved for the team.
2. A player may assign his match shirt number to one of his team players who was first registered within the team sheet, provided that it is only during approved transfer periods.

Article 47:

Players' names must appear on the upper part of the back of the shirt used. The names may be moved to the lower part in the event of an agreement with a sponsor.

Article 48:

The colors of the uniforms worn by each team's main and substitute goalkeepers must be identical, but clearly distinguishable from the colors of the two teams' players and the referees.

Article 49:

The colors of the uniforms worn by the outfield players must be clearly distinguishable from the colors of the two teams' players and the referees.

Article 50:

Sticker bands placed on the socks in colors that are clearly distinguishable must not be worn.

Numbers

Article 51:

The uniforms worn by each team's players must be numbered in consistency with the numbers designated for each player in the club's Team Sheet approved by QFA for the same season.

Article 52:

The club may discard or lend the number of an excluded player to another player.

Article 53:

The numbers must appear clearly legible on the back of the shirt, raised 25.5 centimeters high at the center.

Article 54:

The colors of the numbers shall be clearly distinguishable from the colors of the uniforms so that they appear clearly legible from a reasonable distance and on TV screens.

Article 55:

The colors used for numbering shall be the same for all players of the same team and may be adorned with an additional color.

Article 56:

Except for the Club's logo, no promotional material shall be displayed on the numbers.

Article 57:

The number must be a whole number between 1 and 99 taking into consideration the following:

- a) Any higher number shall not be permitted. Number 1 may only be worn by a goalkeeper.
- b) Players registered in the first/reserved category, shall commit to their assigned numbers throughout the season.

Section Seven

Match Officials

Referees

Article 58:

Referees shall be appointed for each match by the Referees Department.

Article 59:

Licensed local referees shall officiate the Competition matches. The assistance of referees outside the State of Qatar may be sought if necessary. No club shall be allowed to dispute or request the appointment of a certain referee. All clubs shall comply with the decisions of the Referees Department.

Article 60:

At the end of each match, the head referee shall submit an official report to the Match Commissioner, the Referees Committee and the officials of the two competing teams.

Article 61:

In the event of exceptional incidents the head referee shall submit an official report on the match to the Match Commissioner and the Refereeing Department within twenty four (24) hours after the end of the match, excluding official holidays. The report shall include details of the occurring incidents.

Article 62:

In the event that a referee is unavailable to officiate the match during or prior to the start of the game, he shall be replaced with a fourth referee. In the event the fourth referee or an assistant referee is injured, the match shall be cancelled and a new date will be determined for the match.

Article 63:

The referee has the absolute authority in terms of stopping the match, abandoning it, cancelling it or not playing it for any reason, after consulting with the match commissioner, the referees' assessor, the facility manager and the security coordinator. In the event of exceptional incidents, the referee shall submit an official report on the match to the Refereeing Department within twenty four (24) hours after the end of the match explaining the incidents details, excluding official holidays. The report shall include details of the occurring incidents.

Match Commissioner

Article 64:

For each match, the Competition Management shall nominate a Match Commissioner as its main representative responsible for the smooth running and organization of the match in accordance with the standards previously established. The Match Official shall submit a comprehensive report on the match to the Competition Management after receiving the referee's report.

Article 65:

A suitable place shall be reserved for the Match Commissioner to have a clear view of and easy access to the field and any other place where exceptional incidents may occur at and during the match.

Article 66:

A TV surveillance screen shall be provided in the designated area to enable the Match Commissioner to enable him to clearly view any occurring incidents in detail.

General Coordinator

Article 67:

For each Competition match a General Co-ordinator shall be nominated to be in charge of overseeing the match team and to lead technical meetings.

Referee Assessor

Article 68:

For each Competition match a Referee Assessor shall be appointed by the Referees Committee. The Assessor shall be in charge of overseeing referees officiate the Competition matches and will record any observations he deems worth including in the report to be submitted to the Referees Committee at the end of the match.

Article 69:

A suitable place shall be reserved for the Referee Assessor to have a clear view of and easy access to the field and any other place in the event he is required to be positioned there. A TV screen shall be placed in the place allocated to the Referee Assessor to use to check any cases he may have noted during the match through his personal viewing of the game on the ground or by following the game on the TV screen in order write precise report.

Article 70:

The Referee Assessor may use a recorded match once the game is over to check any cases he may have noted during the match through his personal viewing of the game on the ground or by following the game on a TV screen.

Security Coordinator

Article 71:

Security Coordinator shall be appointed by the Competition Management. The main responsibility of the Security Official is to verify everyone enters the areas designated on their tickets and sit in their ticketed seats, whether they are officials or spectators, in collaboration with the game organizers. Security officials shall also ensure everyone exits the stadium safely and is not subject to any risks for any reason.

Article 72:

Security Coordinator shall liaise, directly and fully, with security forces entrusted with the tasks of ensuring the safety and security at and during the match.

Media Coordinator

Article 73:

A Media Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Competition Management for each match to ensure all media standards associated with the match are met, including provision of all ground facilities for the representatives of the press and photographers covering the match who – in coordination and collaboration with the competing clubs' Media Coordinators – shall be granted access during play to the area designated for the media, behind ground advertisement boards, spectators' area or press conference room. The Media Co-ordinator shall also be responsible for preserving the commercial rights of stakeholders and providing necessary assistance to the team of the official TV broadcaster of the match.

Marketing Coordinator

Article 74:

A Marketing Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Competition Management for each match to ensure all marketing standards associated with the match are met, including provision of all commercial matters inside the stadiums, including advertisement boards/overseeing fixed advertisement boards and any other commercial matters related to the stadium.

Doping Test Coordinator

Article 75:

A Doping Test Co-ordinator shall be appointed by QADC in coordination with the Competition Management to conduct the necessary tests according to an estimated schedule set and followed in strict confidentiality and without prior notice.

Article 76:

The Doping Test Co-ordinator shall bear full responsibility for providing all anti-doping test requisites and for ensuring blood samples are taken and stored in an adequate manner before they are sent to the authorized lab for final testing.

Competition Management Team

Article 77:

The Competition Management shall appoint a team that consists of Management and Home Club members presided over by the General Coordinator. The tasks of the team shall include provision of assistance and the necessary support, at all levels, to all officials in matters related to organizing matches and ensuring the Competition Regulations are fully observed.

The team shall consist of the following members of staff:

- Venue Official
- Spectators Marketing Official
- Finance Official
- Ticketing Official
- IT Official
- Ball Boys Official
- Match Presentation (Stadium Announcer)
- Match Secretary

Administrative and Technical Staff members (officials) from each team

Article 78:

Only nine (9) Officials and Technical Staff members shall be permitted to sit on the substitutes bench designated for each of the two competing teams as follows:

- Team Official
- Team Coach or Technical Manager
- Assistant Coach
- Goalkeepers' Coach
- Physical Fitness Coach
- Team Doctor
- Physiotherapist
- Media Official
- Translator if needed (should acquire a QFA registration card designated as Translator).

Article 79:

Only one (1) Official or Technical Staff member shall be authorised to give instructions to their players at and during the match within the technical area designated for his team.

Article 80:

All Officials and Technical Staff members shall have to carry official accreditation cards produced by QSLM and no person without an accreditation card shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes bench.

Article 81:

Prior to the start of the sport season, each club shall nominate its Officials and Technical Staff members who are then approved and included in QFA records for each club participating in the Competition, and their official accreditation cards are issued.

Article 82:

In case a club decides to change an Official and/or Technical Staff member, the Competition Management must be notified so the dispensed individual accreditation card is cancelled and a new one is issued to the new person.

Article 83:

The team's Technical Manager shall satisfy the requirements set forth by AFC which stipulate acquisition of an A category coaching license or having at least 5 years' experience of coaching professional teams as approved by AFC.

Article 84:

The assistant coach, goalkeepers' Coach and the fitness coach shall satisfy the requirements set forth by AFC which stipulate acquisition of a B category coaching license approved by AFC or approval of QFA prior to starting their coaching career.

Article 85:

Medical staff shall be licensed by the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital (ASPETAR) prior to officially joining the team.

Section Eight

Players

Article 86:

The QFA RSTP shall be applicable to all the players registered or intended for registration with the clubs participating in the Competition.

Article 87:

Each player's data shall contain the information entered in the player's registration form.

Section Nine

Interruption or Cancellation of Matches

Article 88:

A match may be terminated or suspended for the following reasons:

1. Force majeure; or
2. Other reasons (Non-Force Majeure).

Article 91:

1. In the event a match is not played or abandoned as a result of a force majeure, the Competition Management shall decide a new match replay date as it deems suitable.
2. In the event a match is interrupted before the end of the regular time as a result of a force majeure, the Competition Management shall decide a new date to commence the match from where it ended.
 - a) In case a match is interrupted prior to minute 30, the match may be replayed the next day.
 - b) In case a match is interrupted after minute 30, the match may be replayed two days later.

Article 90:

In the event a Competition match is interrupted or abandoned as a result of another reason than force majeure, the Competition Management shall refer the incident to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration.

Article 91:

In the event a Competition match is interrupted or abandoned as a result of a force majeure or another reason than force majeure, the referee shall first delay the match for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. If the effect of a force majeure persists, another delay of 30 minutes shall be allowed, at the discretion of the referee in consultation with the Match Commissioner and the officials concerned with the matter at hand. If after this extra period of delay the effect of a force majeure persists, the referee must declare the match to have been cancelled and must submit a report to the Competition Management and the Disciplinary Committee.

Article 92:

In the event a Competition match is interrupted or abandoned for whatever reason, no sanctions remain applicable previously imposed on any of the players or members of the official or technical staff. Any red or yellow cards received during the interrupted or abandoned game shall be dealt with pursuant to the Disciplinary Code.

Section Ten

Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures

Article 93:

All players shall respect the rules and embrace the spirit of fair play. In the event these values are contravened, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the full authority to take appropriate disciplinary actions.

Article 94:

Suspensions and fines shall be imposed on players who receive a caution or expulsion at or during a match, in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

Article 95:

Officials shall be penalized in the event of contravening any statutes or regulations, in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

Article 96:

Officials may dispute penalties imposed on them. Such disputes can be appealed against, in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

Section Eleven

Cautions & Expulsions

Article 97:

Concerning cautions and expulsions, the principles as contained in the Disciplinary Code apply.

Section Twelve

Commercial Rights & TV Broadcast

Article 98:

QFA and QNB STARS LEAGUE statutes and regulations in force shall apply to all commercial and TV broadcasting rights, in accordance with the agreements signed and entered into by QSLM and the concerned parties.

Section Thirteen

Awards

Article 99:

1. The teams that qualify to the Competition finals shall be presented with the following awards:
 - a) First place: League trophy (shield), fifty (50) gold medals and prize money.
 - b) Second place: Fifty (50) silver medals and prize money.
 - c) Third place: Fifty (50) bronze medals and prize money.
2. During final matches and league fixtures, which are immediately followed by a coronation ceremony:
 - a) any player of the both teams was expelled (red card) for disciplinary reasons.
 - b) Any of the technical staff members, team officials or medical staff expelled during the match. In the event of violating the above provision, the Articles 8 and

9 of the QFA Disciplinary Code shall be applicable on both the player and the club.

Article 100:

The winner of QNB STARS LEAGUE shall be held responsible for the safe custody of the league's trophy (QNB STARS LEAGUE Shield) and shall pledge to return it to the Competition Management two months prior to the end of the next edition of the Competition or upon request. In case of any loss of or damage to the trophy, a fine will be imposed, as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

Article 101:

Any matters not stipulated in these regulations and in cases of force majeure must be decided by the QFA Executive Committee, whose decisions are final and binding. In addition to these regulations, the QFA has the right to issue separate regulations pertaining to, for example, but not limited to, age groups and / or amateur football.

Article 102:

These Regulations have been approved and ratified by the QFA Executive Committee on 01/07/2021. These Regulations came into force from the date of issuance unless being annulled or amended by the QFA Executive Committee.